

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
PLAYERS' CONCUSSION INJURY LITIGATION

No. 2:12-md-02323-AB  
MDL No. 2323

Kevin Turner and Shawn Wooden, on behalf  
of themselves and others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

National Football League and NFL Properties, LLC,  
successor-in-interest to NFL Properties, Inc.,

Defendants.

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

Pope McGlamry, P.C. v. Zachary Piller  
Attorney Lien Dispute  
(Doc. No. 7038)

**EXPLANATION AND ORDER**

DAVID R. STRAWBRIDGE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

March 22 , 2019

Before the Court is a Petition to Establish Attorney's Lien ("Lien") seeking attorney's fees and costs from any Monetary Claim to be paid to Settlement Class Member Zachary Piller ("Piller"), which was filed on December 21, 2016 by Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison & Norwood, P.C., now Pope McGlamry, P.C. ("Pope"). (Doc. No. 7038). On March 12, 2018, the Claims Administrator issued a Notice of Lien to Mr. Piller's current counsel, The Lorentz Law Firm, P.A. ("Lorentz"). On April 26, 2018, the Claims Administrator issued a Notice of Monetary Award Claim Determination.

The District Court referred all Petitions for individual attorney's liens to this Court. (Doc. No. 7746). Rules Governing Attorneys' Liens ("Rules") were adopted on March 6, 2018 and amended on October 3, 2018. (Doc. Nos. 9760 and 10283). Pursuant to Rule 12, Lorentz and

Pope (the “Parties”) were advised of their right to consent to have the Magistrate Judge issue a final Order to resolve this Dispute. On January 17, 2019, the Court was notified that the Parties consented to jurisdiction by a Magistrate Judge. (Doc. No. 10382). Accordingly, this Opinion will serve as the final decision of the Court concerning this dispute.

Following a Settlement Conference presided over by Magistrate Judge Timothy R. Rice, this Attorney Lien Dispute has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Parties. On February 26, 2019, pursuant to Rule 24, the Parties submitted a Withdrawal of Attorney’s Lien Dispute (the “Withdrawal”). The signed agreement clearly indicates the portion of the Award that each law firm will receive and sets forth an agreement as to how to disburse any portion of the 5% holdback that may be released in the future. Upon review of the Record and the Withdrawal, and given the circumstance that a negotiated agreement was reached by informed and clearly interested counsel with the involvement of Judge Rice, we find that the agreement reached here was reasonable. In light of the Pope and Lorentz contingency fee agreements and the lists of itemized costs submitted by Lorentz, we conclude that Lorentz is entitled to the costs asserted and that the fees to be paid to each firm are reasonable and collectively within the percentage allowed under the 22% Presumptive Fee Cap imposed by the District Court. (Doc. No. 9863).

Accordingly, we conclude that the Withdrawal shall be granted. The Claims Administrator is ordered to distribute the attorneys’ fees and costs to Pope and to Lorentz as was set forth in the Withdrawal.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the Court’s Order Regarding Withholdings for Common Benefit Fund (Doc. No. 10104), 5% of the Award is currently being held in the Attorney’s Fees Qualified Settlement Fund, where it must remain until further order of the Court. The Claims Administrator will ensure that if any portion of those funds are later released they will be paid pursuant to the agreed terms in the Withdrawal.

**AND NOW**, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2019, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. The Withdrawal of the Lien Dispute is **GRANTED**; and
2. The Claims Administrator is **ORDERED** to disburse the withheld funds in accordance with this decision, the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, and all Court Orders regarding implementation.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ David R. Strawbridge, USMJ  
DAVID R. STRAWBRIDGE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE